

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Norfolk County Joins the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

Toronto, ON – July 21, 2026 – The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is pleased to welcome Norfolk County, ON and Mayor Amy Martin to its growing coalition of more than 425 local government leaders working to advance economic prosperity across the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region while protecting the globally significant freshwater resources that sustain our quality of life.

As a member of the Cities Initiative, Norfolk County will work collaboratively with members from across the region in Canada and the United States to support healthy lakes and rivers, safe and affordable water for all residents, climate resilient communities, and economic transformation to build the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor from Lake Superior to the Gulf of the St. Lawrence.

Mayor Amy Martin of Norfolk County, ON: “Norfolk County is proud to join the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and work alongside municipalities committed to protecting one of our most valuable natural resources. As a community with vibrant waterfronts, and growing communities, we understand the importance of sustainable water management and environmental stewardship. We look forward to collaborating with our municipal partners, sharing best practices, and exploring innovative solutions that will help protect our waterways while supporting community resilience.”

Norfolk County is a thriving municipality on the north shore of Lake Erie with a strong agricultural foundation, a growing and diverse economy, and a deep connection to its natural environment. Home to productive farmland, extensive shoreline, significant natural heritage areas, and vibrant urban and rural communities, Norfolk plays an important role in Ontario's economic and environmental landscape.

As one of Canada's most productive agricultural regions, Norfolk County supports innovation across agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and small business while continuing to attract new residents, investment, and opportunities for growth. The County is committed to sustainable development, responsible stewardship of natural resources, and building resilient communities that support a high quality of life for current and future generations. Through collaboration with regional, provincial, and international partners, Norfolk County works to advance economic prosperity while protecting the environmental assets that contribute to the strength and character of the community.



Mayor Mat Siscoe of St. Catharines, ON, Canadian Chair of the Cities Initiative: “The Cities Initiative plays an important role in uniting community leaders to strengthen the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region. We’re pleased to welcome Norfolk County to our growing coalition of local and First Nation governments. At a time of rapid economic and environmental change, collaboration is essential to safeguarding our region’s vital lakes and rivers and ensuring that our region remains a global economic leader. Together, we are advancing the Fresh Coast Economic Corridor to create new opportunities for our communities and residents and improve the health of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.”

Every new member of the Cities Initiative is a testament to the importance that municipal, First Nation, and Tribal governments place on protecting the region’s globally significant watersheds, preparing communities for extreme weather, modernizing aging water infrastructure, and position our CA\$12.72-billion economy to be among the fastest growing in North America.

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About the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative is a multinational coalition of municipal and Indigenous government executives representing communities in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region who are working to promote economic prosperity in our communities and protect our fresh water for the benefit of current and future generations. With more than 425 communities represented, the Cities Initiative is leading the way in advancing the environmental, economic, and social health of the region by addressing issues impacting its residents. The Cities Initiative is comprised of a U.S. organization and a Canadian organization. In September 2025, the Cities Initiative launched its Economic Transformation Action Plan: A Blueprint for Economic Growth and Freshwater Stewardship in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Region.

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